

# Merced County Projection Highlights

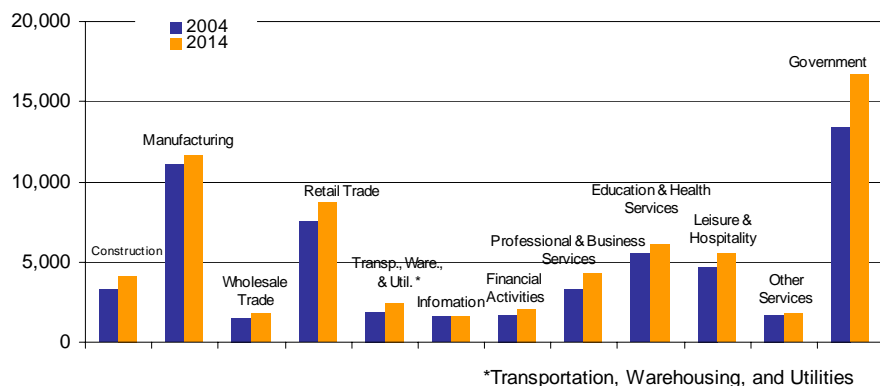
## Industry

Total Employment, including Self-Employment, Unpaid Family Workers, Farm Employment and Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, in Merced County is expected to grow at almost 1.6 percent annually between 2004 and 2014. The overall growth will add 11,600 new jobs, bringing Merced County's total employment to 85,500 by 2014.

Farm Employment, 14 percent of total employment, is projected to add 1,700 farm-related jobs for the next ten years in Merced County.

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, 77 percent of total employment, is expected to grow at 1.7 percent annually for the next ten years. Over 65 percent of all nonfarm job growth is forecasted to occur in Government, Retail Trade, Professional and Business Services, and Leisure and Hospitality.

The graph below shows estimated 2004 and projected 2014 employment for the major industry sectors in Merced County.



State Government is the fastest growing industry sector, growing at an annual rate of 24 percent due to the opening of a new University of California campus in Merced. Other industry sectors growing faster than the county's annual average growth rate of 1.7 percent are Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (2.9 percent), Construction (2.4 percent), and Wholesale Trade (2.0 percent).

## Occupations

Occupational projections for the period 2004 to 2014 forecast:

- 11,600 new jobs from industry growth
- 18,000 job openings from Net Replacements
- A combined total of 29,600 job openings

The top 50 occupations with the most job openings will generate 64 percent of all job openings in the Merced area during the 2004-2014 period. These occupations are expected to generate almost 18,800 total job openings. Many of the occupations with the most job openings require on-the-job training and include jobs in Sales, Office and Administrative Support, Transportation, and Food Preparation and Serving occupations.

The 46 fastest growing occupations are all expected to grow at an annual rate of 1.5 percent or more. Of the 46 fastest growing occupations, 10 require a Bachelor's Degree.

The following chart illustrates average annual job openings due to growth and replacements by education and training levels in Merced County.

